

BOOK REVIEWS

BOB PRESS (Text) and CAROL MERRYMAN (Art). 2006. **Trees: Collins Wild Guide**. (ISBN 0-00-719152-9, pbk.). HarperCollinsPublishers, Ltd., 77-85 Fulham Palace Road, London, W6 8JB, UK (**Orders:** Collins UK, Distributed by Trafalgar Square, No. Pomfret, VT 05053, U.S.A., www.trafalgarsquarebooks.com). \$16.00, 191 pp., color photographs, drawings, 4" × 6¾".

This small book, with its illustrations, color photographs, and pertinent information, is an enormous help to anyone wishing to learn how to identify trees most commonly found in Britain and Ireland.

The book has a brief history of trees in Britain and Ireland. It also includes, for those unfamiliar with botanical language, a short, helpful glossary.

Every page of *Trees* has a color photograph of a species with its scientific and common names. Accompanying each photograph is an ID Fact File, which provides detailed descriptions of the tree, making it a valuable tool for fast and accurate identification.

A compact range of general information covering specific characteristics such as the tree's height, crown, and pattern of branching is very helpful. The leaves, their size, shape, and texture along with fruit and flowers produced by the tree are also emphasized as important aids to correct identification.

The size of the book is a definite plus. It is small enough to fit in a picket, purse, or glove compartment, age appropriate for an adult or older child. It is a wonderful "carry along" book that imparts succinct information that both informs and educates without overwhelming the reader.

It can be safely stated that the reader will take away from this book an increased knowledge of trees and an enhanced awareness of how trees influence and enrich our environment.—*Susan Kingeter, Volunteer, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, 509 Pecan Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102-4060, U.S.A.*

P. DAROLD BATZER and REBECCA R. SHARITZ (eds.). 2007. **Ecology of Freshwater and Estuarine Wetlands**. (ISBN 0-250-24777-9, hbk.). The University of California Press, Berkeley, CA 94704, U.S.A. (**Orders:** California Princeton Fulfillment Services, 1445 Lower Ferry Road, Ewing, NJ 08618, U.S.A., www.ucpress.edu, <http://www.ucpress.edu/books/pages/10296.html>, 609-883-1759, 609-883-7413 fax). \$59.95, 581 pp., color photos, b/w figures and photos, tables, graphs, 7" × 10".

Ecology of Freshwater and Estuarine Wetlands is designed to be a textbook and offers readers a comprehensive introduction to the ecology of wetland systems. This well illustrated book has various chapters written by professionals whom focus on their areas of expertise. This publication would be very suitable as a textbook for classes on wetland ecology and as a supplemental reading for exploring systems modeling or environmental engineering. Additionally, this title could also be a beneficial reference text for related classes, such as hydrology and/or microbiology that may have a focus on the processes and uses of wetlands.

The book chapters flow in a logical order from one to another, building on previous chapters' information. Chapter topics begin with the nuts and bolts of the physical and biological definitions of wetlands followed by wetland geomorphology, hydrology, abiotic constraints on flora and fauna, bacterial ecology, wetland plant communities, wetland ecosystem processes, U.S. wetland regulation and policy, wetland restoration, flood pulsing and biodiversity in wetlands and wetlands in the global environment.

The text is very readable and is accompanied by many supportive illustrations, graphs and photos. The information presented to readers is well balanced, providing various views and theories regarding wetlands function and definitions. Some of this text's most beneficial chapters include current research and views on bacterial ecology in wetlands as well as how these interactions control processes and diversity within wetland systems. There is also a fantastic and witty chapter on wetland restoration in which the author offers many case studies allowing reader to contemplate and learn from surprises and mistakes of others in dealing with wetland restoration. Chapter texts are thoroughly researched and the research studies presented and cited are all included in the extensive reference section. Many of the chapter authors have included issues of concern or methodological steps in evaluating various wetland topics.

Ecology of Freshwater and Estuarine Wetlands, edited by Batzer and Sharitz, provides a comprehensive and timely introduction to wetlands ecology, including well written chapters on wetland formation processes including geomorphology, soils, hydrology and bacterial ecology as well as legal policies and definitions. The text is full of supportive black and white illustrations, charts, tables and references to research studies. *Ecology of Freshwater and Estuarine Wetlands* would serve as an excellent textbook for classes focusing on wetlands, wetland ecology and related classes where system ecology and function may be of interest.—*Lee Luckeydoo, Herbarium, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, 509 Pecan Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102-4060, U.S.A.*